

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IGA-02 AID-05 L-03 AGR-05 EB-07 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9423

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, BG

SUBJECT: PL-480 ISSUES

REF: A. STATE 9015, B. STATE 7459

1. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS THE LATEST WFP FOODGRAIN FORECAST AND
RESPONDS TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED REFTELS. A SEPARATE
TELEGRAM WILL CONVEY THIS MISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE BALANCE
OF THE PL-480 FOODGRAIN PROGRAM FOR FY '76.

2. FOODGRAIN FORECAST.

METRIC TONS

NOVEMBER 1, 1975 STOCK	723,162
ACTUAL ARRIVALS	81,043
ACTUAL OFFTAKE	150,542
DECEMBER 1 STOCK	653,663
ACTUAL ARRIVALS	286,909
BDG PROJECTED RATION OFFTAKE	125,000
JANUARY 1, 1976 STOCK	815,572
EXPECTED ARRIVALS	170,374
PROJECTED OFFTAKE	125,000
FEBRUARY 1 STOCK	860,946
ARRIVALS	47,306
OFFTAKE	135,000

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MARCH 1 STOCK 773,252

ARRIVALS	40,188
OFFTAKE	155,000
APRIL 1 STOCK	658,440
ARRIVALS	15,500
OFFTAKE	175,000
MAY 1 STOCK	498,940
ARRIVALS	--
OFFTAKE	175,000
JUNE 1 STOCK	323,940
ARRIVALS	--
OFFTAKE	135,000
JULY 1 STOCK	188,940

THE ABOVE FIGURES DO NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE ANY FOODGRAIN PROCURED DOMESTICALLY. THEY DO INCLUDE FOOGRAINS IMPORTED UNDER FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMS. THE INFORMATION FOR THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF FY '76 WAS TRANSMITTED BY DACCA A-219 OF DECEMBER 12, 1975 AND A-99, SEPTEMBER 16, 1975. THERE ARE NOT RPT NO ARRIVALS SCHEDULED FOR MAY OR JUNE, 1976.

3. FOODGRAIN STORAGE SITUATION. FOOD SECRETARY ESTIMATED JANUARY 15, ALBEIT IN ABSENCE FINAL REPORT, THEIR STORAGE CAPACITY OWNED BY FOOD MINISTRY HAD RISEN TO 825,000 MT PLUS ABOUT 150,000 MT STORAGE CONTROLLED BY FOOD MINISTRY FOR TOAL OF 975,000 MT

WITH 880,000 MT FOODGRAINS ON HAND, IN SHIPS AND IN TRANSIT, PLUS DOMESTIC PROCUREMENT, FOOD SECRETARY SAID STORAGE SITUATION STILL NOT QTE EASED UNQTE, BUT BY TIME ANY ADDITIONAL PL-480, TITLE I FINANCED FOODGRAINS COULD ARRIVE IN BANGLADESH THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM AS THERE WILL HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLE OFFTAKE. WHILE WE SUSPECT THESE FIGURES SOMEWHAT OVERSTATE ACTUAL PRESENT CAPACITY, WE SHARE SECRETARY'S VIEW THAT SITUATION WILL EASE PROGRESSIVELY OVER COMING MONTHS AS OFFTAKES EXCEED ARRIVALS.

4. PROCUREMENT DRIVE. THERE IS NO OFFICIAL TARGET FOR THE PROCUREMENT DRIVE. AS OF JANUARY 14, A TOTAL OF 176,000 MT RICE EQUIVALENT HADNBEEN PROCURED. DAILY ARRIVALS ARE RUNNING THIS WEEK AT ABOUT 4,000 MT DOWN FROM 5,000 MT/DAY TWO WEEKS AGO. WE ESTIMATE THAT BDG WILL PROCURE 250,000 MT OR POSSIBLY A BIT MORE FROM 1975/76 AMAN (WINTER) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RICE CROP. THIS WILL BE TWICE THE AMOUNT PROCURED FROM THE 1974/75 AMAN CROP. THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM OFFICE ESTIMATES THAT 140 TO 150,000

MT REMAINED ON HAND FROM EARLIER PROCUREMENT DRIVES.

5. TALLOW AND COTTON. CHARGE D'AFFAIRS SENT LETTER DECEMBER 12 TO PLANNING SECRETARY SYEDUZZAMAN WHICH STATED QTE I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT SOME INCREASE IN THE QUANTITIES OF WHEAT, RICE AND

EDIBLE OIL IS UNDER CONSIDERATION, BUT THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO FINANCE RAW COTTON OR INEDIBLE TALLOW UNDER PL 480, TITLE I IN FY 1976. THEREFORE, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU SEEK OTHER MEANS OF FINANCING RAW COTTON AND INEDIBLE TALLOW FOR THE BALANCE OF FY 1976. UNQTE. IN ADDITION AGATT MADE SAME POINT BY SEPARATE LETTER AND ORALLY TO CONCERNED BDG OFFICIALS.

6. FOOD ASSISTANCE COMMITMENTS. THE FIGURES FOR QTE COMMITMENT DURING THE PERIOD UNQTE IN ANNEXURE A TO SYEDUZZAMAN'S LETTER TRANSMITTED IN DACCA 5807 WERE NOT ALL NEW COMMITMENTS, BUT ALSO REPRESENTED FOODGRAINS SUPPLIED EARLIER IN FY-76. THE ACTUAL SITUATION FOR SELECTED DONORS FOLLOWS:

(A) AUSTRALIA. 70,000 MT WHEAT ARRIVED IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 1975. NO MORE IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN FY-76 AT ALLJO ON THE BASIS OF TALKS

WITH AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION OFFICIALS HERE AND ON THE HISTORICAL RECORD, IT SEEMS EXTREMELY PROBABLE THAT AUSTRALIA WILL AGAIN PROVIDE 70,000 MT IN THE FALL OF 1976, WELL AFTER JUNE 30, 1976.

(B) DENMARK. 6,000 MT OF WHEAT HAS ALREADY ARRIVED IN BANGLADESH, AND IS, OF COURSE, INCLUDED IN THE WFP FORECAST ABOVE.

(C) JAPAN. 4,500 MT OF RICE IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN FEBRUARY AND 15,500 IN APRIL. THESE AMOUNTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE WFP FORECAST ABOVE.

(D) UK. NO ADDITIONAL FOODGRAIN IS COMING IN FY '76. THE LAST SHIPMENTS ARRIVED IN MID-1975. THE UK GOVERNMENT IS REVIEWING THE POSITION BUT, WE UNDERSTAND, DOUBTS THERE IS ANY NEED FOR MORE FOOD THIS FISCAL YEAR.

(E) CANADA. NO MORE FOODGRAIN WILL COME THIS CANADIAN FISCAL YEAR (ENDING MARCH 31). UNDER ITS FY '76 PROGRAM, CANADA PROVIDED 142,000 MT IN THE SPRING AND SUMMER OF 1975. HICOMM OFFICIALS HERE HAVE NO RPT NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION FROM OTTAWA, BUT BELIEVE THAT A DECISION ON FY '77 WILL BE TAKEN IN MAY. THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRONGLY DOUBT THAT ANY CANADIAN FOODGRAIN WOULD ARRIVE UNTIL AFTER JUNE 30, 1976.

7. FOOD FOR WORK OFFTAKES. NO PRECISE MONTHLY OFFTAKE FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE. THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM'S FOOD FOR WORK (FFW) EXPECTS TO DISTRIBUTE ABOUT 120,000 MT FROM EARLY JANUARY TO JUNE, 1976. THE PROGRAM CLOSED DOWN DURING THE SUMMER 1975 MONSOON AND BEGAN AGAIN ONLY IN THE SECOND WEEK OF JANUARY, 1976. OFFTAKES WILL VARY FROM MONTH TO MONTH AND ARE EXPECTED TO PEAK IN LATE FEBRUARY, 1976. THE US TITLE II PROGRAM HAS YET TO BEGIN, BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE FULL 50,000 WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY JUNE 30, AS PROGRAMMED.

FFW FOODGRAINS ARE BEING DRAWN FROM BDG STOCKS TO EASE THE PADDY STORAGE SITUATION, PENDING REPLACEMENT FROM NEW IMPORT ARRIVALS. BOSTER

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